

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02

SS-15 ICA-11 /084 W

-----119790 010124Z /75

R 301011Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7011

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BANGKOK SECTION 1 OF 2 BANGKOK 18656

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: SHUM SOCI CB

SUBJECT: REPORTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN DEMOCRATIC
KAMPUCHEA

REF: STATE 157953, BANGKOK 17849, BANGKOK 18288

1. SUMMARY: FOLLOWING IS INTERVIEW WITH CAMBODIAN REFUGEE,
SOURCE O, NAME: MON SIEU. (NAME MAY BE USED IN USG
DOCUMENTATION FOR UNHRC.) INTERVIEW WAS CONDUCTED IN PRASAT,
SURIN, JUNE 16, 1978.

2. SOURCE O, MON SIEU, 30, FROM SIEM REAP PROVINCE, FLED TO
THAILAND JUNE 15 FROM ODDAR MEANCHEY PROVINCE. HIS ACCOUNT FOLLOWS:

3. CONDITIONS OF LIVING IN DEMOCRATIC KAMPUCHEA QTE I WAS FORCED
TO MOVE WITH 104 FAMILIES FROM MY NATIVE SIEM REAP PROVINCE
TO KOUK PONGRO COLLECTIVE, CHENG KAL DISTRICT, ODDAR MEANCHEY
PROVINCE. I FLED TO THAILAND JUNE 15 THIS YEAR BECAUSE I COULD
NO LONGER ENDURE THE PERSECUTION OF THE PEOPLE WHICH IS COMMON
IN CAMBODIA.

4. QTE IN 1975-78, MOST OF THE TIME, WE HAD ENOUGH RICE TO
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EAT DURING THE HARVEST SEASON. THE REST OF THE TIME, EATING
IN COMMUNAL DINING HALLS, WE HAD RICE GRUEL. WE ATE FROM A BIG
CAULDRON. WE RARELY HAD ENOUGH TO EAT. SALT WAS USUALLY ADDED
TO THE GRUEL AND SOMETIMES A FISH WOULD BE THROWN IN, BUT NOT
VERY OFTEN.

5. QTE WE WERE REQUIRED TO AWAKEN AT 0400 AND WERE FORCED TO

WORK RIGHT AWAY WITHOUT ANYTHING TO EAT UNTIL NOON. AT NOON WE ATE IN THE COMMUNE AND THEN WENT STRAIGHT BACK TO WORK WITHOUT REST. WE WORKED UNTIL 1630, THEN HAD DINNER. OCCASIONALLY, WE WOULD GET A SECOND BOWL OF GRUEL AT DINNER. AFTER THE MEAL, WE RESTED. WE WERE NOT ALLOWED TO GO ANYWHERE, EXCEPT FOR THOSE WHO WERE ASSIGNED PATROL DUTY.

6. QTE WE BUILT OUR OWN HOUSES, THREE BY THREE METERS, MADE OF POLES. EACH FAMILY HAD THE SAME SIZE HOUSE, REGARDLESS OF THE NUMBER OF MEMBERS OF THE FAMILY .

7. QTE THERE WAS ONE "REVOLUTIONARY DOCTOR," CALLED BOEUT, IN KOUK PONGRO. HE WAS ANOTHER FARMER, APPOINTED BY THE VILLAGE CHIEF. BOEUT HAD NO TRAINING, BUT WAS SIMPLY ORDERED TO GO TO CHENG KAL FROM TIME TO TIME TO GET HERB MEDICINE. NEITHER BOEUT NOR HIS MEDICINES WERE EFFECTIVE. WE HAD A LOT OF MALARIA, DYSENTERY, AND BERIBERI. TWO PEOPLE RECENTLY DIED OF DISEASES. THERE WAS NOT A HIGH INFANT MORTALITY RATE, BUT FEWER CHILDREN WERE BORN THAN BEFORE. THERE WERE STILL A LOT OF BABIES BORN, BUT THE CHILDREN ARE ALL SKINNY.

8. SYSTEM OF ADMINISTRATION AND DISCIPLINE
QTE THERE WERE NO KHMER ROUGE SOLDIERS IN THE COLLECTIVE, ALTHOUGH THERE WERE SOME SOLDIERS IN CHENG KAL. THERE WERE SIX CIVILIAN ADMINISTRATORS: THE "SANGKAT" (COLLECTIVE) CHIEF, DEPUTY COLLECTIVE CHIEF, THE VILLAGE CHIEF, DEPUTY VILLAGE CHIEF
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AND THE "MEMBER" (SECOND DEPUTY). AT DUSK, SOLDIERS ON PATROL AND SPIES (SCHLOP) FROM CHENG KAL CAME INTO THE VILLAGE TO HIDE UNDER THE HOUSES AND LISTEN TO WHAT MEMBERS OF THE FAMILY SAY TO EACH OTHER. WHEN THE CIVIL ADMINISTRATORS WISH TO EXECUTE SOMEONE, THEY CALL FOR SOLDIERS TO COME TO THE VILLAGE.

9. QTE AT THE MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE, THE VILLAGE CHIEF USUALLY REPRIMANDED PEOPLE ABOUT THEIR WORK. IF YOU WERE SLOW, YOU WERE CRITICIZED AND ACCUSED OF BEING A SABOTEUR. DURING THE MEETINGS, YOU COULD ONLY LISTEN. YOU COULD NOT CRITICIZE, SUGGEST OR PROPOSE ANYTHING. NO ONE WOULD DARE EVEN TO SPEAK. THERE WAS AN ATMOSPHERE OF FEAR AND TERROR IN THE VILLAGE. NO ONE DARED DO ANYTHING UNLESS ORDERED TO DO SO. IN THE FAMILY AND WITH EXTREMELY CLOSE FRIENDS, PEOPLE WOULD TALK. NO ONE HAD THE CONFIDENCE OF HIS NEIGHBORS, SO YOU WOULD NOT CONSIDER DISCUSSION OF UPRISING AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT.

10. QTE IF YOU HAD A PROBLEM, SUCH AS BEING BULLIED, OR YOUR FOOD WAS TAKEN, IN PRINCIPLE, YOU COULD BRING IT UP WITH THE VILLAGE OFFICIALS. IN FACT, PEOPLE ARE SO SCARED THAT THEY DO NOT QUARREL WITH EACH OTHER OR COMMIT CRIMES AGAINST EACH OTHER.

11. QTE MOST CRIMES ARE BEING LATE FOR WORK. SOMETIMES, IF ONLY ONE VILLAGER IS LATE FOR WORK, THE VILLAGE CHIEF WILL CALL A MEETING TO REPRIMAND HIM. THE VILLAGE WILL BE CRITICIZED PUBLICLY. THE THIRD TIME HE IS LATE, HE WILL BE EXECUTED. WE SAW MANY PEOPLE DRAGGED AWAY TO BE KILLED. MY FRIENDS HAVE SEEN PEOPLE KILLED WITH THEIR OWN EYES. LAST MONTH, ONE VILLAGER WAS EXECUTED FOR BEING LATE.

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12. QTE ASIDE FROM BEING LATE, THE VILLAGERS ARE PUNISHED FOR COMPLAINING ABOUT FOOD AND ABOUT THE WAY WE ARE FED. IF THE SPIES HEAR YOU COMPLAIN, YOU ARE "FINISHED" (EXECUTED). YOU CANNOT COMPLAIN ABOUT INSUFFICIENCY OF FOOD, THAT FOOD IS TASTELESS, THAT FOOD DOESN'T HAVE ENOUGH SALT OR IS BADLY COOKED. FOR A SINGLE SUCH ERROR, YOU CAN BE EXECUTED.

13. QTE WE WERE ALSO WARNED ABOUT PRE-MARITAL SEX. IF YOU WANT SEX, YOU HAVE TO GET MARRIED. THERE WAS NO CASE KNOWN IN OUR VILLAGE OF PRE-MARITAL SEX.

14. QTE THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS "LIGHT PUNISHMENT" IN CAMBODIA NOW. YOU ARE EITHER WARNED AT A MEETING OR EXECUTED. WE WERE NEVER BEATEN; WE WERE JUST EXECUTED.

15. EXECUTIONS QTE MY FRIEND SAW THREE VILLAGERS KILLED. THEY WERE TAKEN TO ANOTHER COLLECTIVE IN CHENG KAL. MANY HOLES HAD ALREADY BEEN DUG IN THE GROUND. FOUR KHMER ROUGE SOLDIERS ORDERED THE VILLAGERS TO KNEEL DOWN IN FRONT OF THE HOLES. THE SOLDIERS THEN HIT THE VILLAGERS ON THE HEAD WITH BAMBOO POLES. THE VILLAGERS FELL INTO THE HOLES.

16. QTE MY BROTHER MOEUN WAS KILLED RECENTLY. MOEUN WAS 25,
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FORMERLY A MONK. HE WAS EMPLOYED BY THE KHMER ROUGE AS A TEACHER
OF SMALL KIDS. I LEARNED OF HIS DEATH FROM NEIGHBORS AFTER I
ARRIVED IN THAILAND. I DO NOT KNOW THE CAUSE OR WHETHER IT WAS
CONNECTED WITH MY FLIGHT TO THAILAND. END QTE
O'DONOHUE

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